

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 3, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 3. In Fig. 3, the legend "Prior Art" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The office action of May 4, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Rosenthal et al.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over EP 0781609 to Kramer in view of JP 05-161902 to Konose et al. and the patent to Langer et al.

Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kramer, Konose et al. and Langer et al., and further in view of the patent to Ginzburg.

In connection with the Examiner's objections to the drawings, applicant has attached hereto a Replacement Sheet of drawings in

which Fig. 3 has been given the label "Prior Art".

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1, 6 and 9.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions and methods disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Rosenthal, et al., it can be seen that this patent discloses a production plant for continuously or discontinuously rolling hot strip. Rosenthal et al. do not disclose a rolling mill or a method for hot rolling aluminum in which the roughing train does not include a coiler, whereby the rolling stock passes directly from the roughing train to the finishing train, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The reference to Kramer discloses a method and installation for hot rolling bands.

The reference to Konose et al. discloses hot rolling equipment.

The patent to Langer et al. discloses a plant and process for hot-rolling strip or plate stock.

The Examiner combined these references in determining that claims 1-4 and 6-8 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that none of these references, nor their combination, teach a rolling mill and method for hot rolling aluminum as in the presently claimed invention. Kramer explicitly teaches a single preparation stand and a single finishing stand, and gives no teaching concerning the rolling of aluminum with multiple two finishing stands. Konose et al. teach a roughing stand (there is no teaching of a finishing stand) that rolls in tandem and puts out rough strip for the finishing train. From the drawing of Konose et al. one can see that there is a connecting unit or looping pit. There is no direct connection from the tandem roughing train to the finishing train. This means that the rough strip must lie at least once on the flat train. Therefore, the spacing between the roughing train and the finishing train is fixed. There is no teaching of combining the roughing and finishing into a tandem operation in order to reduce mill lengths. In Langer et al. it is impossible to reverse roll the strip in the roughing stand. Furthermore, the described finishing stand would make very difficult an effective strip finishing that can be directly connected with large strip lengths. In the presently claimed invention there is a tandem rolling of the roughing and finishing stands, for which the mill of Langer et al. is not

suited because the roughing train does not reverse. The roughing stand of Langer et al. remains stationary during the finish rolling, while in the present invention the rolling of the next strip is possible.

A combination of these three references does not teach or suggest the present invention. The combination of references would not result in a tandem operation since there is no showing of a reversing roughing train in Konose et al. and Langer et al. There is no teaching of a direct combination of the roughing and finishing in a tandem operation, as in the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, the combination does not teach a rolling mill or a method for hot rolling aluminum in which the roughing train does not include a coiler, whereby the rolling stock passes directly from the roughing train to the finishing train, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Ginzburg et al. has also been considered.

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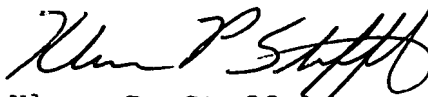
Applicant submits that this reference adds nothing to the teachings of the previously discussed references so as to teach the present invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 5, 2007.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: November 5, 2007